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Resumed organizational session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 2 May 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued) (A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1, E/1996/2/Add.2, E/1996/13, E/1996/17, E/1996/41)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of the question of accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of the non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat.

Mr. KOVANDA, speaking as Vice-President of the Council, reported on the results of informal consultations. Document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 contained the names of three non-governmental organizations which had not been recommended for accreditation, namely the Taiwan International Alliance, the Canada Tibet Committee and the Tibetan Rights Campaign. On previous occasions, the President had recommended that the Council should go along with the judgement of the Conference secretariat, but informal consultations in the present instance had indicated that such a solution would not be feasible in respect of the Tibetan Rights Campaign. Some members of the Council had indicated that they wished to hold further discussions on the issue, and he could not rule out the possibility that the accreditation would have to be voted on by the Council as a whole. The general background to the accreditation of the three non-governmental organizations under consideration had been known for some time, but the urgency of the issue had only become apparent during the previous few days. Certain delegations had stated that if any vote was to be taken, it should be postponed until the following day.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the Vice-President's report, he took it that the Council wished to continue consideration of the matter the following day.

It was so decided.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued) (E/1996/2/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue with elections to a number of bodies.

Mr. KASANDA (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that Group members needed more time to finalize their list of candidates and requested that consideration of African members should be postponed until the following day.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997, and drew the Council's attention to document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that Fiji, Japan, Pakistan and the Philippines had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Bolivia, Colombia and Jamaica had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Chile should be deleted from the list of non-endorsed candidates.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of Asian States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in those groups, he took it that the Committee wished to elect them by acclamation, and to postpone to a later date its consideration of members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Austria, Bolivia, Colombia, Fiji, Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sweden were elected to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Eastern European States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Jormanainen (Finland) and Mr. Gokhale (India) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28

Number of votes obtained:

Russian Federation 47

Ukraine 42

Croatia 17

Having obtained the required majority, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997, and drew the Council's attention to document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that Bulgaria and Slovakia had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Mexico, Panama and Venezuela had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in those groups, he took it that the Committee wished to elect them by acclamation and postpone to a later date its consideration of members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Bulgaria, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Panama, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernández Palacio (Argentina) and Mr. Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

India 47

Indonesia 41

Japan 38

Fiji 29

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, India, Indonesia and Japan were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1996/L.5)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. In that connection, he drew attention to the information contained in document E/1996/L.5.

Ms. GRANT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, explained that, in accordance with the Group's internal arrangements, Canada had resigned from the Executive Board prior to the expiration of its term, meaning that five members from the Group were now to be elected instead of four.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had informed him that Jamaica and Nicaragua had been endorsed as candidates for election. Since the number of candidates endorsed by that Group and by the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies for each Group, he took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation and that it also wished to postpone until the following session the election of two members from the Group of African States, which had not yet proposed any candidates.

It was so decided.

Belgium, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, New Zealand, Nicaragua and the United States of America were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The PRESIDENT, having informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Iran had withdrawn from the list of candidates for the Group of Asian States, said that the Group had more candidates than there were vacancies. He therefore invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernández Palacio (Argentina) and Mr. Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Indonesia 42

Oman 36

Sri Lanka 31

Iran 1

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Indonesia and Oman were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Eastern European States had more candidates than there were vacancies; he therefore invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernández Palacio (Argentina) and Mr. Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Czech Republic 37

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 17

Having obtained the required majority, the Czech Republic was elected member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (E/1996/L.11)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. In that connection, he drew attention to the information contained in document E/1996/L.11.

Ms. GRANT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, explained that, in accordance with the Group's internal arrangements, Canada and Spain had resigned from the Executive Board prior to the expiration of their terms, meaning that six members from the Group were now to be elected instead of four.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had informed him that Brazil and Antigua and Barbuda had been endorsed as candidates for election. Since the number of candidates from that Group, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation and that it also wished to postpone until the following session the election of two members from the Group of African States, which had not yet proposed any candidates.

It was so decided.

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Brazil, France, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund.

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Asian States had more candidates than there were vacancies. He therefore invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Scampini (Paraguay) and Mr. Ba (Senegal) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Pakistan	43
Thailand	40
Sri Lanka	14

Papua New Guinea 10

Having obtained the required majority, Pakistan and Thailand were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.